(c) whether Government propose to consider B.P.L. and A.P.L. families in same category in Rajasthan due to drought situation; and

(d) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The Government of Rajasthan had projected additional requirement of about Rs. 4160 crores for the current drought. Based on the assessment made by the Study Team which visited the State in January, 2003, the High Level Committee in its meeting held on 23-03-2003 approved additional assistance of Rs. 682.35 crores subject to adjustment of 25% of Calamity Relief Fund(CRF) allocation to the State for 2003-04. After such adjustment, Rs.622.44 crores from the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was found admissible and released to the State.

(c) and (d) No such proposal is presently under consideration of the Government.

Production and storage of fruits and vegetables

†4338. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) the total production of vegetables and fruits in the country at present and the quantity of vegetables and fruits spoiled in the absence of proper maintenance and storage facilities;

(b) the capacity of storage of fruits and vegetables at present in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to process the food items, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the information available, the Production of fruit and vegetables in the country for the year 2000-01 is 453.70 lakh MT and 939.22 lakh MT respectively. Post Harvest losses do occur at different stages of produce handling and its transportation. The Working Group on Post Harvest Management for 10th Plan has estimated that the wastage range from 8-37% at various stages.

†Originai notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The Government of India through National Horticulture Board is promoting creation of additional cold storage facilities to reduce post-harvest losses. The National Horticulture Board has sanctioned creation of 30.53 lakh MT capacity through establishment of 681 cold storage in the country since 1999-2000—2002-03.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industry, Government of India, is promoting establishment of infrastructure facilities through providing financial assistance for setting up new food processing units and for expansion/ modernization of existing units. The Ministry also addresses the issues of quality assurance, human resource development relating to food processing industries.

Joint ventures between NDDB and state co-operative milk federations

4339. SHRIMATI BEMBA RAIKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the share-holding pattern on joint ventures between National Pairy Development Board and the State Co-operative Milk Federations;

(b) whether under this JV scheme the State Federations would be free to market their own produce or even opt out of the JV proposal,

(c) whether it is a fact that milk production has been increasing at the rate of 9 per cent annually and marketing only by 4 per cent; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) (a) and (b) No, Sir. A wholly owned company of NDDB through its subsidiary unit has decided to enter into Joint Ventures with State Cooperative Dairy Federations for the purpose of strengthening the marketing of their liquid milk and identified products under the brand name of the respective Federations. These joint ventures are purely violuntary in nature. The pattern of share holding between the Mother Dairy Foods Limited and the concerned State Dairy Federation will be in the ratio of 51:49.

(c) and (d) The milk production in the country is growing annually at the rate of 4.2%. The procurement of milk in the Dairy Cooperative Sector is increasing at the rate of 9% per annum whereas the growth in marketing is only 4%. Due